

Application No. 10/777,184
Draft Amendments for Discussion with Examiner Jerrold Johnson

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DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1-5. (Cancelled)
- 6. (Withdrawn)
- 7-11. (Cancelled)
- 12-13. (Withdrawn)
- 14-22. (Cancelled)
- 23-25. (Withdrawn)
- 26. (Cancelled)
- 27. (Withdrawn)
- 28-29. (Cancelled)
- 30-37. (Withdrawn)
- 38. (Cancelled)
- 39. (Withdrawn)
- 40-42. (Cancelled)
- 43. (Withdrawn)

[old claim 4] 44. (New) A sealable bag comprising:

a pouch defined by one or more sections of substantially airtight material joined together in a substantially airtight manner such that an unsectioned opening having at least one end is left for accessing said pouch;

a substantially airtight sealing system in association with said unsectioned opening;
and

a blocking structure substantially permanently attached to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end;

wherein said substantially airtight sealing system is an interlocking tongue and groove system and said blocking structure is a tab-like spacer comprising a first end and a second end, said first end attached to one of said sections of substantially airtight material at said unsectioned opening such that said second end is capable of placement in said unsectioned opening.

[old claim 11] 45. (New) The sealable bag of claim 44, wherein said interlocking tongue and groove system is molded integrally with said sections of substantially airtight material.

[old claim 16] 46. (New) The sealable bag of claim 44, wherein said interlocking tongue and groove system is affixed parallel to the edges of said fourth unsealed sides in close proximity to said unsectioned opening.

[old claim 20] 47. (New) The sealable bag of claim 44, wherein said interlocking tongue and groove system is affixed to the edges of said fourth unsealed sides.

48. (New) The sealable bag of claim 44, wherein said blocking structure is integrally molded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

49. (New) The sealable bag of claim 44, wherein said blocking structure is welded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

[old claim 2] 50. (New) The sealable bag of claim 44, wherein said one or more sections of substantially airtight material joined together in a substantially airtight manner comprises opposing substantially rectangular panel sections wherein three sets of sides of the rectangular panel sections are sealed in a substantially airtight manner leaving the fourth set of sides unsealed and defining said unsectioned opening.

51. (New) The sealable bag of claim 50, wherein said blocking structure is integrally molded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

52. (New) The sealable bag of claim 50, wherein said blocking structure is welded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

[old claim 5] 53. (New) A sealable bag comprising:
a pouch defined by one or more sections of substantially airtight material joined together in a substantially airtight manner such that an unsectioned opening having at least one end is left for accessing said pouch;
a substantially airtight sealing system in association with said unsectioned opening;
and
a blocking structure substantially permanently attached to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end;
wherein said substantially airtight sealing system is an interlocking tongue and groove system and said blocking structure is a generally thin and elongated spacer comprising a first end and a second end, said first end attached to one or more of said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening such that said second end may be inserted in said unsectioned opening.

[old claim 40] 54. (New) The sealable bag of claim 53, wherein said interlocking tongue and groove system is molded integrally with said sections of substantially airtight material.

[old claim 41] 55. (New) The sealable bag of claim 53, wherein said interlocking tongue and groove system is affixed parallel to the edges of said fourth unsealed sides in close proximity to said unsectioned opening.

[old claim 42] 56. (New) The sealable bag of claim 53, wherein said interlocking tongue and groove system is affixed to the edges of said fourth unsealed sides.

57. (New) The sealable bag of claim 53, wherein said blocking structure is integrally molded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

58. (New) The sealable bag of claim 53, wherein said blocking structure is welded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

[old claim 38] 59. (New) The sealable bag of claim 53, wherein said one or more sections of substantially airtight material joined together in a substantially airtight manner comprises opposing substantially rectangular panel sections wherein three sets of sides of the rectangular panel sections are sealed in a substantially airtight manner leaving the fourth set of sides unsealed and defining said unsectioned opening.

60. (New) The sealable bag of claim 59, wherein said blocking structure is integrally molded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

61. (New) The sealable bag of claim 59, wherein said blocking structure is welded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

[old claim 26] 62. (New) An evacuation system for a sealable bag comprising:
a substantially airtight bag with at least one continuous opening;

a substantially airtight sealing system affixed to said bag for sealing said opening wherein said substantially airtight sealing system has at least one substantially permanently sealed end; and,

a spacer substantially permanently attached to said bag near said opening at the substantially permanently sealed end of said substantially airtight sealing system, said spacer having at least one end, said end capable of temporary placement in said opening such that said substantially airtight sealing system is prevented from completely sealing.

[old claim 28] 63. (New) The evacuation system of claim 62, wherein said substantially airtight sealing system is an interlocking tongue and groove system.

[old claim 29] 64. (New) The evacuation system of claim 62, wherein said substantially airtight bag has only one continuous opening.

65. (New) The sealable bag of claim 62, wherein said blocking structure is integrally molded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

66. (New) The sealable bag of claim 62, wherein said blocking structure is welded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

67. (New) The sealable bag of claim 62, wherein said substantially airtight bag comprises opposing substantially rectangular panel sections wherein three sets of sides of the rectangular panel sections are sealed in a substantially airtight manner leaving the fourth set of sides unsealed and defining said opening.

68. (New) The sealable bag of claim 67, wherein said blocking structure is integrally molded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.

69. (New) The scalable bag of claim 67, wherein said blocking structure is welded to said sections of substantially airtight material near said unsectioned opening proximate to said end.